

Child Care Provider FAQ – Face Covering Guidance

Q: How does Delaware’s guidance on face coverings impact emergency child care workers?

A: Governor John Carney has issued a modification to his State of Emergency declaration that requires Delawareans to wear face coverings in public settings and addresses specific requirements for businesses operating during the COVID-19 crisis.

As businesses providing emergency child care, all child care providers and/or staff working in child care facilities that remain open must wear cloth face coverings while at work. Business owners must provide these cloth face coverings to staff if staff do not already have them, as well as provide access to hand sanitizer for staff.

Please note that masks do not replace other screening protocols such as temperature checks that are required pursuant to the guidance published for Emergency Child Care Centers.

Face coverings are not required for any child under 12, and children under 2 years of age must not wear face coverings. Additionally, business owners must deny entry to anyone over the age of 12 who is not wearing a face covering, if one is not available to be provided to that person.

Important Note: Individuals should practice strict hand-washing before and after touching a face covering. Face coverings are important part of the state’s response to COVID-19, but they do not replace washing hands, practicing physical distancing and staying home.

Q: Who does NOT need to wear a face covering?

A: Under the Governor’s modification, face coverings are not required for any child under 12, and children under 2 years of age must not wear face coverings.

Delawareans are required to wear face coverings in public settings, except where doing so would inhibit that individual’s health. If a child care employee cannot wear a mask due to an underlying medical condition, the child care provider should require the employee to bring a doctor’s note. An employee who doesn’t wear a

mask pursuant to a doctor's note should undergo additional screening protocol, like temperature checks more than once in a day, to ensure health and safety.

Q: Should child care providers wear a face covering for the entire day?

A: When feasible, child care providers and/or staff should wear cloth face coverings during the work day while they are around other adults or children.

Q: If I am the only adult in the classroom with children, do I need to wear a face covering?

A: Yes, to help reduce the spread of the disease.

Q: How can I explain to young children the need for cloth face coverings?

A: Face coverings are an important way to help reduce the risk of transmission and protect yourself and others. However, as common as they are, it is natural for children to feel nervous or uncomfortable with adults wearing face coverings. This is a challenging time for all of us, but we are all in this together.

Here are tips from Nemours KidsHealth and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that show how to help children understand and feel comfortable around face coverings, and how to discuss COVID-19 with children. Some key points include providing support, comfort and taking the time to talk and answer questions.

CDC – Talking with Children About Coronavirus Disease:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>

Nemours KidsHealth – Coronavirus (COVID-19): Helping Kids Get Used to Masks: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-masks.html>

Nemours KidsHealth - Why Are People Wearing Face Masks?:

<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/face-masks.html>

Q: What is the definition of a cloth face covering?

A: A cloth face covering is a material that covers the nose and mouth. The covering can be secured to the head with ties or ear loops and can be made from a variety of materials, such as cotton, silk or linen. There are many simple ways to make a face covering. Cloth face coverings can be made by hand or improvised from household items like scarfs, T-shirts, towels or bandanas.

Reference: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/guidance-for-face-coverings/>

Q: Where can I find cloth face coverings and/or hand sanitizer?

A: There are many simple ways to make a face covering with the items you have at home. The Delaware Division of Public Health has provided helpful information on how to make and care for a cloth face covering. You can make one on your own, without sewing anything together!

Please see this information here: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/guidance-for-face-coverings/>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also has helpful information on DIY face coverings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Additionally, you can search for potential face coverings or hand sanitizer online, like on Amazon, or in your local pharmacy or home improvement store. Check retailers' websites online to see what is available.

If you need help with cleaning supplies or masks you can also fill out the supply form (called 'I Need Help With Supplies') listed on the main <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/> website.

Here is a direct link to the supply form:
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/148f26ebc752420291fcc48dccd725e5>